



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 2, 2002

### **H.R. 2386** **Outfitter Policy Act of 2001**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on  
September 12, 2002*

H.R. 2386 would establish a uniform policy for issuing permits to outfitters and similar businesses that offer certain recreational services on public lands. CBO estimates that implementing this bill would have no significant effect on the federal budget. H.R. 2386 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant effect on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments. Enacting the bill would have no significant effect on direct spending or revenues.

The legislation would require outfitters to obtain permits to conduct commercial activities on lands under the jurisdictions of the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation. Generally, outfitters are small businesses that provide recreational equipment and act as guides and escorts to visitors of federal recreational lands. The permits would usually cover 10 years and would be renewable for companies that receive satisfactory performance evaluations. The bill also would provide guidelines for setting fees to be charged to outfitters.

Based on information provided by the four affected agencies, CBO estimates that the bill would have little if any effect on offsetting receipts from outfitter activities. All four agencies already charge fees to outfitters and have authority to spend at least some of the amounts they collect. The bill would not change the way that the agencies establish such fees or the way they are spent. Currently, offsetting receipts collected from outfitters by the four agencies total around \$5 million annually.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.